And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

# THE NEW AVENGERS

The new Avengers know that the shape-shifting aliens known as the Skrulls have invaded the Earth. And, since they cannot tell who is really a Skrull, they cannot trust that anyone is who they seem to be. This has sent the Avengers into a tailspin of mistrust.

The Illuminati is a secret organization comprised of several of the world's most powerful heroes: Sorcerer Supreme Doctor Strange; Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans; Charles Xavier, founder of the X-Men; Reed Richards, founding member of the Fantastic Four; Namor, the Sub-Mariner, ruler of Atlantis; and Iron Man, founding member of the Avengers. These six men have worked together to shape the superhuman world. To keep the trust between the group members, the Illuminati's existence has been kept secret from everyone, including the members' teammates and families.

Years ago, after the Kree-Skrull War, the group traveled to the Skrull homeworld to let the Skrulls know that Earth would not tolerate any more attempts at Skrull invasion.

Things did not go well...


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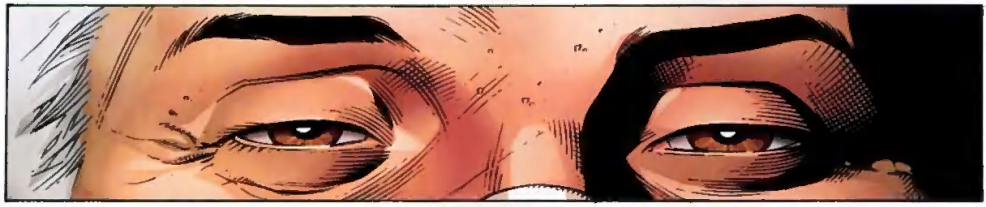
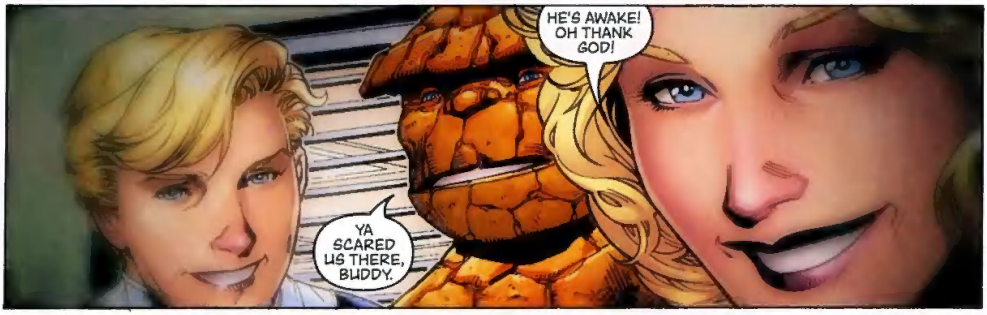
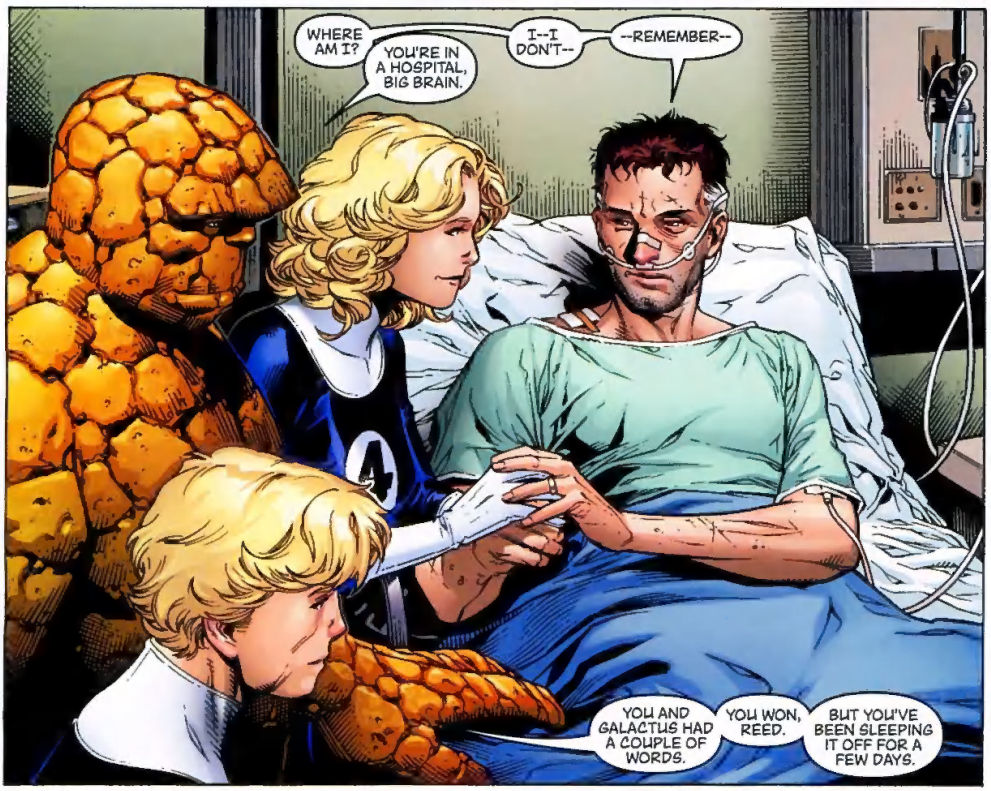
PRINCESS VERANKE, TYERANX SEVEN PROVINCE
YOU IGNORE THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS!
YOU IGNORE THE WRITINGS AND YOU SIT THERE AND LET OUR EMPIRE FALL APART AROUND YOU!
AND YOU DO NOTHING!
YOU DO NOTHING!
THIS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE--
IT IS EXTREMELY APPROPRIATE!
THE PROPHETS' WORDS ARE YOURS TO LISTEN TO--TO LET GUIDE YOU--BUT THEY ARE NOT YOURS TO IGNORE.
THEY HAVE TOLD YOU THAT OUR WORLDS ARE IN DANGER. THEY HAVE FORETOLD OF THE WAVE OF DESTRUCTION.
A DEVOURER OF WORLDS. A WORLD OF BLUE WILL--
STOP IT! STOP!
IT'S MADNESS. IT'S CHILDREN'S STORIES!
YOU'RE A MADWOMAN AND THOSE THAT LISTEN TO YOU ARE DOUBLY INSANE!
YOU KNOW I SPEAK FOR A GREAT MANY OF US!!
YOU KNOW YOU'RE IGNORING THE WILL OF YOUR PEOPLE!!
AND IF THAT BE, THEN YOU ARE NO LONGER FIT TO SIT UPON THAT THRONE!!
REMOVE HER.

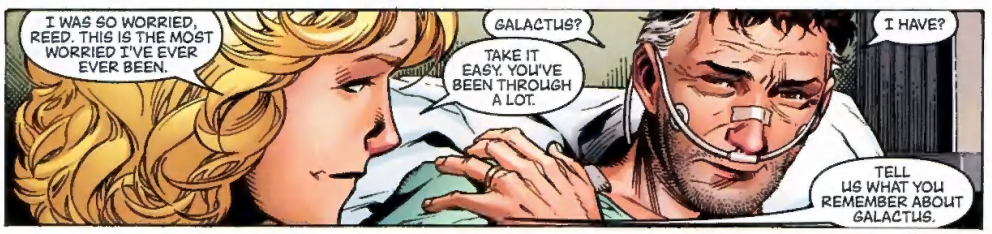
YOU ARE A RELIGIOUS ZEALOT AND A MADWOMAN!
TAKE THIS TRAITOR AWAY FROM ME!
NOOO!
LISTEN TO HER!
YOU CAN'T SILENCE HER!
SHE SPEAKS THE WORD!
SHE SPEAKS TRUTH!
NOOO!
IT IS WRITTEN!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
YOU WILL SEE!
A WAVE!
IT IS WRITTEN!
IT IS--
A WAVE WILL COME!
A WAVE WILL COME!

YOUR MAJESTY... SHOULD YOU NOT TAKE YOUR LEAVE TO SAFEHOLD?
I DO NOT LEAVE MY THRONE TO COWER.
YOUR MAJESTY, YOU CANNOT HOLD HER. SHE IS BLOOD BORN.
SHE'S DANGEROUS.
IF YOU KILL HER, YOU WILL MARTYR HER.
IF YOU IMPRISON HER--
I KNOW.
IF YOU IMPRISON HER--
BE STILL.
THE SCIENCE VERSUS THE SPIRITS.
SO YOU'VE BECOME AN IMPORTANT ONE, HEAD PRIEST OF THE SCIENCES.
IT WOULD SEEM.
WHAT CAN HE DO?
EXPLAIN IT.
DRO'GE, ROYAL PRIEST OF THE SCIENCES
THE HUMANS THAT WERE HERE. REED RICHARDS, THE INHUMAN, THE MUTANT... WE HAD THEM PRISONER.
WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF SAMPLES AND SPECIMENS FROM THEM.
WE HAVE SAMPLES OF THEIR ALIEN BIOLOGICAL CODES. THAT WHICH MAKES THEM WHAT THEY ARE.
AND WHAT WERE YOU TO DO WITH THIS?
WOR'IL, WAR COUNCIL DELEGATE
EXPERIMENTS. CLONING. DISSECTION. REVERSE BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING.
IT WILL TAKE TIME.
WE WILL MOVE YOUR FACILITIES TO ONE OF THE OTHER SKRULL WORLDS.
YOU WILL REPORT ONLY TO ME.
YES SIR.




HE'S AWAKE! OH THANK GOD!
YA SCARED US THERE, BUDDY.


WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE IN A HOSPITAL, BIG BRAIN.
I--I DON'T--
--REMEMBER--
YOU AND GALACTUS HAD A COUPLE OF WORDS.
YOU WON, REED.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING IT OFF FOR A FEW DAYS.


I WAS SO WORRIED, REED. THIS IS THE MOST WORRIED I'VE EVER EVER BEEN.
GALACTUS?
TAKE IT EASY. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
I HAVE?
TELL US WHAT YOU REMEMBER ABOUT GALACTUS.

TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT GALACTUS.
GALACTUS?
THIS SICKENS ME.
CRAZZAA
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
MY PARDONS... DID WE DO SOMETHING WRONG?

THAT MUD-WALKER TURNED ONE OF MY FAMILY INTO A COW.
WHAT'S A COW?
MY POINT.
YOUR HIGHNESS. YOU WERE HERE ONLY TO OBSERVE.
THE CLONE UNVEILING WAS ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN--
YOU'LL MAKE ANOTHER.
THIS WASN'T THE ACTUAL HUMAN. IT WAS JUST A COPY. THE ASSASSINATION DID NOTHING TO--
MY APOLOGIES.
CARRY ON.

SKRULL WORLD SATRIANI
I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY SO HUMBLED!
I AM HUMBLED BECAUSE WHAT I KNEW BEFORE I WAS CAST AWAY FROM YOU WAS TRUE!
THAT WE ARE GOOD AND WE ARE RIGHT!
MILLIONS OF OUR BROTHERS DIED SO THAT THE MOST SKEPTICAL AMONG YOU COULD NOW KNOW WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN!
AS THE PROPHETS WROTE DOWN TO OUR ANCESTORS!
WE NOW KNOW THE WORDS AS WRITTEN ARE TRUTH!
THAT OUR PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE!
THAT OUR PEOPLE WILL HAVE A SACRED HOME!
IT IS CALLED EARTH!
AND IT IS OURS!
AS IT IS WRITTEN!
AS IT IS WRITTEN!

SKRULL WORLD
TARNAX X
YOUR HIGHNESS, DELEGATES...
YEARS AGO, AS YOU KNOW, A CONSORTIUM OF HUMANS INCLUDING REED RICHARDS OF THE EARTH'S FANTASTIC FOUR CAME TO OUR THRONEWORLD WITH A MESSAGE OF HOSTILITY.
WHAT SOME OF YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW, IS THOSE SIX INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTED VERY SPECIFIC PARTS OF EARTH'S SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY.
THEY REPRESENTED THE GENETIC MUTANTS.
THE KREE-SPAWNED INHUMANS.
ONE OF THE MASTERS OF THE DIMENSION'S MYSTIC ARTS.
THE EARTH'S VERY FIRST MUTANT AND KING OF ITS WATER KINGDOMS.
...AND THESE TWO WHO ARE CONSIDERED THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS THE EARTH HAS RIGHT NOW.
WE WERE ABLE TO--AND I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN THIS AS COMMONLY AS I CAN.
WE WERE ABLE TO DETAIN THOSE HUMANS FOR A BRIEF TIME AND GATHER FROM THEM SAMPLES OF THEIR DNA AND GENEALOGY
OUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS--OUR OWN PRIESTS OF THE MAGICS AND THE PHYSICS--HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR YEARS ON WHAT WE UNCOVERED THAT DAY.
WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU NOW ARE SOME RATHE LARGE BREAKTHROUGHS THAT WE BELIEVE, WITH THE QUEEN'S GUIDANCE AND INSTRUCTION, MAY CHANGE THE COURSE OF OUR EMPIRE'S FORTUNES.
THROUGH A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS WE WERE ABLE TO STRIP OUT THE HUMANS' NEURAL CODED BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS.
BASICALLY DOWNLOADING ALL THE INFORMATION THEIR GENEALOGY AND BRAIN PATTERNS AND DNA HAD TO OFFER US.
WE NOW KNOW THINGS ABOUT THEM AS A SPECIES THAT THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW
WE KNOW MORE ABOUT HUMAN EVOLUTION AND FUTURE HUMAN EVOLUTION THAN THEY KNOW
WE KNOW MORE ABOUT THE MUTANT GENE AND THE HISTORY OF THEIR WORLD THAN THEY KNOW.
AND FROM THERE WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING
WELL DONE, SIR.

THIS IS THE MODEL FOR OUR NEW SUPER-SKRULL WARRIOR.
THOUGH HE RESEMBLES THE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF WARRIOR KL'RT AND HIS FAUX FANTASTIC FOUR POWERS--
--THAT WAS, FOR THE MOST PART, SCIENTIFIC TRICKERY.
THIS IS THE REAL THING.
ANY HUMAN OR MUTANT WHO WE CAN STRIP A DNA SAMPLE OF, WE CAN NOW COMPLETELY DUPLICATE THEIR ABILITIES.
ANY MIX OR MATCH OF ANY KIND.
OR IF YOU WANT JUST A HYPER-POWERED REED RICHARDS OR BEN GRIMM, WE CAN DO THAT TOO.
BUT LIKE KL'RT DISPLAYED FOR MANY YEARS, WE BELIEVE THAT A WARRIOR WITH A *MIXTURE* OF POWER ATTRIBUTES REVEALS ITSELF TO BE A MUCH MORE ESTABLISHED THREAT.
THE MORE WEAPONS A WARRIOR HAS...
A NEW ARMY.
EXACTLY MY FEELINGS ON IT.
THAT IS SPECTACULAR.
AND WHO IS THIS BRAVE SOUL WHO VOLUNTEERED HIMSELF FOR SUCH A PROCESS?
A HUMBLE SERVANT TO THE EMPIRE.
AND, MAY I ADD, THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE GALACTUS ATTACK.
IMPRESSIVE, YES. YES, YES!
BUT IT'S JUST *ANOTHER* IDEA FOR *ANOTHER* PHYSICAL ATTACK.
THIS IS WHERE WE ALWAYS FAIL AGAINST THE POWERED MUTANTS AND HEROES TIME AND TIME AGAIN.
DELEGATE CH-GRA
IF I MAY, YOUR HIGHNESS, THAT'S NOT ALL...

THERE IS ANOTHER REASON WE HAVE CALLED THE COUNCIL TOGETHER...
WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE TO YOU THAT WE HAVE FINALLY FOUND A WAY FOR SKRULLS TO WALK AMONG HUMANS COMPLETELY UNDETECTED.
BUT MUTANTS...
YES, AND THEIR MAGICS AND THEIR TECHNOLOGIES. ALL OF IT.
IN THE PAST, OUR ABILITY TO SHIFT FORM HAS BEEN OUR GREATEST ASSET IN INFILTRATING THEIR NUMBERS...
...BUT IT'S ONLY HAD LIMITED SUCCESS FOR US AS A WARTIME TACTIC.
I'M SAYING TO YOU THIS...
WITH OUR NEW GENETIC ENHANCEMENTS, ONCE A SKRULL SPY HAS INFILTRATED THE HUMAN PEOPLE...
...AS LONG AS THE SHAPE THIS SKRULL HAS CHOSEN IS MAINTAINED IN ITS ENTIRETY...
...NO EXISTING POWER ON EARTH COULD DETECT IT.
BUT IT HAS TO REMAIN IN THE SHAPE OF THE HUMAN.
ONE WOULD HAVE TO BECOME THAT HUMAN MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY.
ANY CHANGE COULD SIGNAL DETECTION FROM ONE SUCH AS, LET'S SAY TONY STARK.
HAS THIS BEEN TESTED?
WARRIOR SIRI.
PLEASE ENTER.

MY NAME ON EARTH IS ELEKTRA NATCHIOS.
I HAVE *BEEN* ON EARTH FOR THE LAST CYCLE.
I HAVE HAD COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMANDER NICK FURY, A MAN CODE-NAMED DAREDEVIL, THE MUTANT WOLVERINE, AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSASSIN CONSORTIUM KNOWN AS THE HAND.
MY IDENTITY WAS NOT DETECTED.
MY FULL REPORT WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU AT THE QUEEN'S DISCRETION.
MY HONOR.
MY QUEEN.
EXPLAIN TO THE COUNCIL HOW THE IDENTITY OF ELEKTRA NATCHIOS WAS WELL-SUITED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.
HER ENTIRE PERSONA IS WRAPPED IN MYSTERY.
SHE IS KNOWN TO THE POWERS OF THE EARTH, BUT NO ONE KNOWS HER INTIMATELY.
SHE HAS ACTUALLY EXPIRED FROM THE MORTAL PLANE AND BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.
YES.
AND THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF OTHER HUMANS WHO FIT THIS DESCRIPTION.
REPLACING *THEM.*
TAKING THE REAL HUMAN AND REPLACING THEM WITH ONE OF OURS HAS A LOW RISK AND HIGH IMPACT.
IT IS THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT WE INITIATE THIS PRE-STRIKE STRATEGY IMMEDIATELY.
HERE IS A LIST OF OTHER CANDIDATES THAT I'VE PUT TOGETHER.
THIS IS JUST PRELIMINARY, THERE WILL BE MORE.
WONDERFUL.
THE WORD IS GIVEN.
BUT...